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36 towns as Boutilimit and Aleg. There is also a track that runs south-
[491] south-westwards to Yang-Yang. For half the year there is a bus
[494] service twice a week to St. Louis in one direction and to Kidira in the other. 1/1

[131] [162] TAMBACOUNDA (13° 45′; 13° 39′ W.). Altitude, 148 feet. Population, c. 4,000. Provincial headquarters. Medical post. Police headquarters. Landing-ground. Wireless station. Hotel. Garage.

[491] [496] On a slight eminence above a marshy tributary of the Sandougou, Tambacounda is of considerable importance as a route centre. It is not only a road junction but also the most southerly point in Senegal of the Dakar–Niger railway. Near the town is a sisal
[248] plantation.

The hotel is open only from December to May.

[496] [491] By rail Tambacounda is 285 miles from Dakar, 111 miles from Kidira, and 170½ miles from Kayes. One intercolonial road runs westwards to Kaolack (188 miles), Thiès (295 miles), and Dakar (339 miles); another north-eastwards to Nayes (121 miles) and Kayes (176 miles); and a third southwards to Diabougou (25 miles) and ultimately to Labé (288 miles). Before the war Tambacounda was
[509] connected to Dakar and Bamako by a weekly air service operated by Air France.

[131] [162] [797] THIÈS (14° 49′; 16° 52′ W.). Altitude, 207 feet. Population, 15,451. Mixed Commune. Provincial headquarters. Medical post. Barracks. Police headquarters. Landing-ground. Regional School. Roman Catholic mission. Power station. Hotels. Garages. Railway workshops. Cinemas. Daily market.

[498] [438] Since the opening of the railway in 1885 Thiès has grown from a collection of native huts to a large town. The railway workshops employ many hundreds of men, and the market handles considerable quantities of ground-nuts. The town has been built on a slope that declines gently east and north-east to a small stream. The old Fort Faidherbe is still standing, and there is a big Roman Catholic church.

Communications. Thiès is a railway junction, being 43½ miles
[496] from Dakar, 119½ miles from St. Louis, and 352½ miles from Kidira.
[491] It is also a meeting-place of intercolonial roads. One of these comes from Dakar (44 miles) and goes on to St. Louis (124 miles), while the other branches east to Kaolack (107 miles), Nayes (416 miles), and Kayes (471 miles). There are several minor roads, notably one going
[494] south to M'Bour. Along this road there is a regular bus service, with two buses each weekday in either direction.

1/1 [From the town of Podor-- Analyst]

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sixth crop of Africa, and 43 per cent. of the total continental production comes from Senegal. The two main groups cultivated are the 'runner' and the 'erect'. The Rufisque and Cayor varieties, both runners, are those grown generally here and also in British West Africa. The method of cultivation is described in Volume I, p. 321. Ground-nuts were originally grown as a staple native crop, but the industrial demand for vegetable oils, coupled with the development of transport facilities, opened up a world market for them. Extra labour for the harvest is provided annually by seasonal immigration from French Sudan, French Guinea, Portuguese Guinea, and the Gambia. In 1938 the number of outside workers was 69,757. Of these, 56,743 went to the Kaolack area, between 1,000 and 3,500 to Sedhiou, Ziguinchor, Kolda, Tambacounda, and Diourbel, and the remainder to Thiès and Linguéré.

There are numerous shelling factories. Early in 1939 new ones were opened at Kaolack, Ziguinchor, and Koungheul.

In 1938 nearly 2,000,000 acres were under cultivation and the experimental station at Bambey distributed 5,414 tons of selected seed. In 1939 7,382 tons of seed were sent out, with a corresponding increase in acreage.

During the British blockade of French West Africa after the fall of France in 1940, ground-nuts were converted into fuel oil. If this practice has been proved worth continuing after the war, cultivation may be greatly extended.

Sisal. Sisal originated in Mexico, being named after the port of Sisal in Yucatan province, and it was introduced into Senegal at the end of the nineteenth century. The species grown are *Agave rigida sisalana*, *A. rigida elongata*, and *A. rigida zapupe*. The rigid leaves containing the fibre are about 4 feet long and are harvested biennially from the fourth to the eighth or tenth year. When a plant has finished producing it shoots up a tall flower stem, with bulbils or buds on the end, and then withers.

The preparation of stem and leaf fibres is lengthy. First the fleshy tissue encasing the fibre is scraped away, and then the fibre is washed, hung out to dry, and brushed. It is now ready for grading. Next it is combed into a continuous sliver of untwisted rope. The final process is the drawing and twisting of the sliver to a uniform thinness for spinning into a rope that is particularly resistant to sea-water. The largest plantation is in French Sudan, and stretches for 12 miles along the bank of the Senegal near Kayes. Other smaller ones are in Tambacounda and on the Cape Verde peninsula. There is oppor-

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tunity for much development in this industry, particularly in the irrigated areas of the Casamance Territory and Sine-Saloum. Europeans own the majority of the plantations, but co-operate with and encourage native growers. During the first quarter of 1939 production in Tambacounda province was 152 tons, and the factory at Kolda treated 165 tons of fibre.

Ginger. The ginger plant (*Zingiber officinale*) is of Asiatic origin, but it has been cultivated in Africa for many centuries. It is grown on a small scale wherever the rainfall is over 30 inches. It does best in a rich soil and requires shade. The ginger of commerce is prepared from the rhizome or underground stem, which is mature when the leaves turn yellow. The best ginger is prepared from immature rhizomes, which are peeled and preserved in sugar syrup, but in West Africa the coarser, mature stems are also used. Chewed ginger is reputed to enhance the stimulating effect of kola.

Pimentos. Several species of *Capsicum* or peppers grow in the Federation. In Senegal the most common are *C. annum* and *C. frutescens*, both bearing red fruits. The former was introduced from South America. It is less pungent and has larger fruits, known as 'capsicums'. *C. frutescens* has hotter fruits, known in commerce as 'chillies'. Cayenne or paprika is the red powder obtained from grounding the fruit. Pepper shrubs are grown from seeds, and after three months bear fruit for at least six months. These red peppers should not be confused with the common pepper, which is a climber and does not grow in West Africa.

Henna. This plant (*Lawsonia inermis*), like sugar-cane, maize, ginger, and castor oil, is grown wherever there is enough water. The plant is much revered by Moslems and often grown as a hedge. The powder of the young, dried leaves is the source of henna dye.

Other Crops. Other products of which small quantities are exported are citrus fruits, gum arabic, shea butter, cotton, kapok, and palm kernels.

Livestock

Livestock are fewer here than in any other colony. Sheep and goats, the latter being the more numerous, are kept near the river between Podor and Bakel and number about 100,000. There are some 310,000 cattle, 50,000 donkeys, 6,000 camels, and 14,000 pigs. These last are mainly kept in the Casamance Territory. There are 36,000 horses. These are of two breeds, the M'Bayar and the M'Par, and

/119 cont./
[243] production of about 14,000 tons, which are entirely consumed on the spot.

[244] [474] Manioc. Manioc is the crop grown in some plantings around the villages. The native Société de Prevoyance distributed many cuttings in most of the cantons in 1925.

About 5,000 hectares are planted to manioc, with a production of 25,000 tons of fresh manioc.

[243] /120/ Maize. Maize is not planted everywhere. It is cultivated in Bas-Saloum and in Sine, a little in Saloum. There are 2,000 hectares of maize and 2,000 tons of production.

[244] Beans (niébés). The bean called "niébé" is planted on about 15,000 hectares, yielding a harvest of 7,000 tons.

Production, however, remains stationary, because the plant is attacked by various insects (weevils).

[245] [654] Bananas. Two banana plantations, established by the administration, exist at Sangako and Bani in Bas-Saloum. They could be multiplied in this region.

[249] Sugar cane. This product is not cultivated very much -- the soil is not suitable -- with rare exceptions.

[248] Cotton. Native cotton is cultivated only in small stretches. This crop takes up 700 hectares of land.

[249] Indigo. The region that is the principal producer of indigo is Bas-Saloum. This crop has tended to increase for the past several years.

[314] Kapok. The kapok tree lives in the wild state. There are some in the cantons along the railroad (N'Gahaye-Gossas), but especially to the south, starting at Kaffrine and above all in Koungheul. The native does not harvest it or harvests it poorly. The circle could yield 100 tons of kapok, but it provides only 20 tons at the most, used locally or sold abroad.